

To: Linden, melissa[linden.melissa@epa.gov]
Cc: Albert, JosephA[Albert.JosephA@epa.gov]
From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Tue 4/1/2014 4:51:32 PM
Subject: Huntington/Central WV Subarea LEPC Update - Lincoln County

Melissa – please see the attached minutes (TL01-10-07-007-DCN652) from TechLaw’s visit to the Lincoln County OES/911 center and LEPC meeting:

Lincoln County, WV, March 25, 2014, 1900 hours

Location: Lincoln County 911/OES

Marconi Drive, West Hamlin, WV

Contact for this meeting was Francis Holton, the Planner for Lincoln County. The LEPC Chair was confirmed as William Frazier, Jr., who serves as a firefighter in the county.

This LEPC was quite simply overjoyed that EPA has shown interest in their LEPC. They expressed that they have been anxious and anticipating, for some time, EPA presence at their meetings.

This LEPC is very small, consisting of <30 members, 10 of which consistently attend the LEPC meetings. The members are mostly affiliated with fire departments, along with medical/health and water department representatives.

This LEPC reported that it has great interest in and is in desperate need of support to conduct HSEEP exercises in their county. Their interest is in following the HSEEP and conducting a seminar, tabletop, functional, then full-scale exercise. TechLaw’s START (START) informed them that the HazMat element must be included for EPA to consider assisting in such exercise(s); they understood and were aware of the situation. They have already been considering scenarios that would include the HazMat element- those proposed initially were a tornado with a vehicular accident involving truck(s) transporting HazMat, or a chlorine spill of EF-3. The LEPC would consider involving adjoining counties in order to gain EPA’s support and assistance: Wayne, Cabell, Putnam, Kanawha, Boone, Logan, and Mingo Counties surround Lincoln County. Concern about involving adjacent counties was expressed due to geographical

support and leaving areas unavailable for assistance in the case of an emergency response- their wish is to conduct an “all-hazards” exercise.

Intense discussion involving the chemical leak at the Freedom Industries facility ensued. Personal opinions about WVDEP and the Governor receiving law suits were discussed. However, the ultimate point of the discussion was to pronounce that Lincoln County was in jeopardy and at risk for future emergencies due to their water supply system and politics. Lincoln County was seriously affected by the spill, financially, and FEMA has denied their initial funding reimbursement request (they requested reimbursement for things such as business loss and employee’s salaries (teachers, etc.)). The request will be re-submitted.

The LEPC is currently investigating alternate water sources for their county, which would not be dependent upon WVAWC. START confirmed the drinking water intakes for the county; there are two (the Coal and Guyandotte Rivers). In addition, there are several other drinking water intakes that are located just outside the county that provide drinking water to the residents of Lincoln County. Discussions about the exact locations of the intakes, due to sensitivity of the data, were not documented in writing, but noted.

Training classes were discussed, which included a Debris Maintenance Class (April 25-27, 2014), located at Canaan Valley, a Public Safety Expo (May 7-10, 2014), located in Charleston, WV, and a Mass Fatality Class (May 13-14, 2014).

Communications were discussed, in particular issues with notification to the power company. The policy is “vague” as written. There have been incidents when fire fighters have responded to a fire and assumed that someone had notified the power company; however, upon arrival to the scene, the power was still on and live wires were present, impeding their ability to fight the fire.

The LEPC requested a volunteer for a Chairperson for Critical Infrastructure; a representative of the West Hamlin Water Department was nominated and accepted the responsibility.

Francis Holton escorted START through the 911 center.

Francis Holton and START reviewed the Fact Sheet for the county and Francis assisted with

verification of the information. Some of the information was confirmed from the 911 system. HazMat Teams were verified for the county; there are three teams that will respond, dependent upon the location of the incident (south – Logan, east – Charleston, west – Cabell).

Francis Holton expressed interest in the upcoming exercise in Cabell/Wayne counties with the USCG; START placed him in contact with Jerry Beckett, the Planner for Cabell County.

START departed the Lincoln County OES/911 Center at 2105 hours.